Nantwich Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Urban District of Nantwich,

for the Year 1920,

BY J. D. MUNRO,

Medical Officer of Health,

and the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

P. BEBBINGTON.

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NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Nantwich, which is an ancient town, is situated in the South West corner of the County of Cheshire.

The climate is equable and mild, and the geological formation met with consists of red marl.

It is a market town for a large and important agricultural area.

The Brine Baths Hotel is situated on the outskirts of the town, and is visited by a large number of patients suffering from Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Neuritis, etc.

The area of the District is 703 acres; the Rateable Value is £27,029 11s. 6d., and its Assessable Value is returned as £35,122 13s. 6d.

The District is served by the London & North Western and Great Western Railways, and the Shropshire Union Canal. Motor Bus services are also run between Nantwich and Crewe, Sandbach, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Tarporley, and Chester.

The industries consist of Wholesale Clothing Manufacturies, Boot and Shoe Manufacturies, and a large Tannery.

POPULATION.

The population taken at the Census, 1911, was 7,816.

The estimated population for 1920 and for the purpose of my report is 7,333, the figure given by the Registrar General.

BIRTHS.

BIRTHS REGISTERED	196
BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 population...	26·7

The above figures shew a satisfactory increase in the birth-rate, 10 per 1,000 population more than last year.

This rate is the highest recorded since 1907.

Of the births registered thirteen were illegitimate.

DEATHS.

CRUDE DEATH-RATE	12·8
NET DEATH-RATE	15·6

Deaths at all ages registered in the District numbered 94.

Deaths of Residents not registered in the District (including 5 deaths in the Workhouse Infirmary) numbered 21.

The net deaths during the year of persons belonging to the Urban District of Nantwich therefore amount to 115, and the corrected death-rate is 15·6 per 1,000 of the population.

The Phthisis death-rate is 1·3 per 1,000 of the population and 8·7 per cent. of the total deaths registered.

The deaths from Cancer, which number 13, show a decrease of 2 as compared with the figures for 1919.

The death-rate is slightly higher than the rate for 1919, which was 11·7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nineteen deaths occurred under 1 year of age, being 9·6 per cent. of the total Births registered during the year, and a Death-rate of 96·9 per 1,000 Births.

Causes of Death as follows:—Bronchitis 2, Chronic Gastro Enteritis 1, Broncho Pneumonia 4, Premature Birth 5, Debility from Birth 1, Congenital Encephalocele 1, Imperforate Anus 1, Infantile Dyspepsia 1, Suffocation 1, Inanition 1, Convulsions 1.

The rate is much lower than the figure for 1919, which was 129·3 per 1,000 Births.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The list of Infectious Diseases given shews the prevalence of Acute Infectious Diseases in the District for 1920, 67 cases being notified.

Scarlet Fever	15
Diphtheria	23
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	16
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2
Erysipelas	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	1
Primary Pneumonia.....	2
	67

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases notified	23
Mortality	1

Twenty-three cases of Diphtheria occurred, being an increase of 19 against the number notified in 1919.

Twenty cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

One death occurred from Diphtheria at the Isolation Hospital.

Three cases were treated at home and recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.

Cases notified	15
Mortality	1

Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred. This shows a decrease of thirteen against the number notified during 1919.

Thirteen cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Two cases were treated at home, one of which proved fatal.

Particular attention was paid to the isolation of the patients, and disinfectants, etc., were supplied.

MEASLES.

No serious epidemic has occurred during the year, and there have been no deaths.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 16; other forms of Tuberculosis, 2. Eight of the cases notified during the year have proved fatal.

The deaths registered from Phthisis numbered 10, and from other forms of Tuberculosis 1.

During the year all cases of Consumption reported have been frequently visited, sputum cups and disinfectants provided gratis, and leaflets containing information for those suffering from the disease have been distributed. Disinfection is carried out of rooms, bedding, etc.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Thirty-three cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital from this District, i.e., twenty Diphtheria, thirteen Scarlet Fever. This shews an increase of five as compared with the figure for 1919. One death occurred in the Hospital of cases admitted from this District, the cause of death being Diphtheria.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

The Hospital is always ready for use if required. No case of Smallpox has occurred during the year.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of the rooms is carried out by spraying with Formalin and washing down with a solution of some well-known disinfectant. Bedding and clothing, which cannot be boiled, are disinfected by means of a Steam Disinfector at the Joint Hospital.

NANTWICH DISTRICT NURSE.

Marie Baroness von Schröder very kindly defrays the expenses connected with the District Nurse.

The Nurse's visits are much appreciated by the working class population in the District, who are not in a position themselves to pay for a trained Nurse.

A large number of cases have received attention during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is obtained from waterworks at Baddiley and is a constant supply. Owing to the wet weather there has been a good supply of water in the mere, and pumping has not been necessary.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The whole of the sewage from the District discharges into the river Weaver below the town. Nothing further has yet been done with regard to the new Sewage Disposal Scheme.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

A statement as to the number of privies, water closets, etc., is set out in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is annexed.

There are still a number of offensive midden-privies in the District, and the work of abolishing same is progressing satisfactorily. Fifty-eight have been converted into pail closets during the year. Owing to the insufficient pressure and supply

of water it is not desirable to put same on the water carriage system.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out under the Inspector's supervision.

REGISTERED LODGING-HOUSES. (4).

Numerous visits have been made to these premises during the year, and there has been no cause for complaint found.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. (9).

Frequent visits have been made, and their condition has been found satisfactory. No unsound meat has come under notice during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. (11).

These have been frequently visited and found to be clean. The milk supply seems to be good and wholesome.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND BAKEHOUSES

have been frequently visited and found in a cleanly state and free from overcrowding.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no cause to close the Schools during the year, which is satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The number of Dwelling-houses in the District is 1,745, and of this number 1291 are of a working class type.

There are no empty houses, and no buildings which can be made suitable by alterations or conversion to flats for the working class.

An Army Hut has been converted into two dwelling houses.

The number of persons per house is approximately 4.

There are still a large number of overcrowded houses in the District, and also a number of houses intended for one family which are now occupied by two or more families.

There are also a number of houses which are seriously defective. These are being inspected and notices served for the necessary repairs to be executed.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

There are three Upholsterers' premises in the District, which have been frequently visited. No Rag Flock has been used during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is appended, shews in detail the work carried on during the year in the Health Department. It will be seen that a very considerable number of inspections has been made.

Visits to work in course of construction and the supervision of work undertaken in the abatement of nuisances, have entailed a large amount of work and expenditure of time. This is energy well applied, as it is only by the exercise of close personal supervision that satisfactory results can be obtained.

Particular attention has been paid to the sanitary condition of premises at which cases of Infectious Disease occurred, notices being served when required, and any defect found remedied.

The Medical Officer of Health is always in close touch with the Sanitary Inspector, and a large number of visits have been paid by him during the year in connection with this Department.

At the request of the County Medical Officer of Health I append a Tabular Statement referring to various sanitary matters concerning the Urban District Area.

J. D. MUNRO.

22nd February, 1921.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DURING 1920.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

I—WATER SUPPLY.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1920? If so please append brief note—*No.*

2.—Number of Samples analysed during 1920—
Chemically—*None.* Bacteriologically—*None.*

3. **Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water?**—*Five Houses, which are supplied with water from a well by means of a pump.*

II—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1.—Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1920—*None.*

2.—**Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers?**—*None.*

3. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1920 as to the disposal works?—*No.*

4. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1920?—*No.*

III—HOUSING.

1. Number of new houses built during 1920—*Army Hut converted into two Dwelling Houses.*

2. Number of dwelling houses inspected under s. 17, Act of 1909—*56.*

3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation—*None.*

4. Number of representations made to Local Authority—*None*

5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority—*None.*

6. Number of houses where defects remedied *without* closing orders being made—*Eighteen.*

7. Number of houses where defects remedied *after* closing orders made—*None.*

8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909—*1,291.*

9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1920—*None.*
10. Number of such houses closed after notice—*None.*
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, etc.—*None.*
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district—*4*
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district—*None.*
14. What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council decided are required under the recent Housing Act?—*70*

IV—**TOWN PLANNING.**

Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1920 for your District or any part thereof?—*None.*

V—**Maternity and Child Welfare.**

This is under the County Scheme.

(Signed) J. D. MUNRO.

22nd February, 1921.

Nantwich Urban District.

THE

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Annual Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the Year 1920.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

P. BEBBINGTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

February, 1921.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR 1920.

Pail Closets converted into W.C.'s	1
Privy-middens converted into Pail Closets ...	58
New W.C.'s erected	39
New W.C. Basins fixed in place of broken ones	4
Ashpits repaired	6
Ashpits abolished	4
Ashbins provided	148
New Closet Pails provided	58
Defective House Drains repaired	4
New Drainage Schemes carried out	3
Stopped House Drains and W.C.'s cleared ...	139
,, School Drains and W.C.'s cleared ...	6
,, Factory W.C.'s cleared	2
New W.C. Cisterns fixed	3
,, Trap to W.C.	1
,, Cones to W.C.'s	2
,, Closet Seats fixed	4
,, Gratings to Gullies	2
Vent Shaft repaired	1
Gutters repaired	2
Sink taken down and refixed	1
New Sink Waste Pipe fixed	1
Trapped Gulleys fixed in place of untrapped ones	2
Defective Eaves and Fall Spouts repaired ...	28
Fall Pipes disconnected from Drain	1
Defective House Roofs repaired	8
,, Closet Roofs repaired	9
,, Yard Paving repaired	2
,, Living Room Floors repaired ...	13
,, Bed-room Floors repaired	2
,, Brickwork repaired	35
Dilapidated Plastering repaired	20
Boiler taken down and rebuilt	1
Chimneys taken down and rebuilt	3
Dirty Workshops cleansed	2
Accumulations of Manure removed	6
Accumulations of Rubbish removed	4

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Two Hundred and Fifteen Informal Notices were served for the abatement of Nuisances; 199 have been complied with, and 16 are in hand.

Nineteen Statutory Notices were served as follows:—

6—To abate nuisances arising from privies being so constructed and so foul as to be a nuisance or injurious to health (in hand).

2—To abate nuisances arising from want of sufficient flushing cistern to W.C. (complied with).

11—To abate nuisances arising from want of sufficient ashpits. (In three cases the notices were not complied with, and the Local Authority provided the necessary dustbins and recovered the costs from the Owners; six notices were complied with and two are in hand).

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling Houses (General Inspections) ...	304
Back to back Houses	5
Tents, Sheds, Vans, etc., ...	7
Courts, Yards, Passages...	1,421
Privy-middens, Earth or Pail Closets	1,837
Ashpits	1,008
House Drainage (in course of construction)	284
Offensive Accumulations	20
Offensive Trades	58
Slaughter-houses	516
Other places where food is produced or sold ...	145
Piggeries	40
Keeping of Animals	26
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	173
Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces ...	118
Outworkers' Premises	348
Bakehouses	38
Common Lodging-houses	202
Canal Boats	24
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Re-visits ...	212
Nuisances Re-visited	972
Miscellaneous	82
	7,840

On one occasion the whole of the drains at the Workhouse were found to be stopped. These were immediately cleared and put in order.

Old and defective drains have been taken up and new drains laid, including chambers, etc., at:—

Number 32 Pepper Street,
Number 140 Hospital Street,
Numbers 13 and 15 Mill Street.

New W.C.'s have been erected, including new drains, and connecting to existing drains, at 12 Wellington Road, (1); Messrs. Harding's Factory, Barony, (38).

An old W.C. at the Regent Cycle Stores has been taken down and new W.C. erected.

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences, ashpits, etc., in the District at the end of the year 1919, and also at the end of 1920.

	1919	1920	Scavenged.
Water Closets	1005	1049	
Auto. & T. Water Closets	44	44	
Pail Closets	1142	1219	Weekly
Midden Privies	124	66	Quarterly or when required
Dry Ashpits	450	479	,, ,, ,,
Dustbins	700	704	Weekly

The scavenging is carried out by the Urban District Council.

Part of the house refuse is burnt at the Baths Boiler, and the remainder is deposited at Tips.

The excrement from pail closets is deposited on land outside the District.

At the end of 1919 there were approximately 124 midden-privies in the District, a considerable number of same being very deep and in a dilapidated condition. Owing to the wet and offensive state of these midden-privies there is a great difficulty in emptying same. During the year 58 midden-privies have been converted into pail closets. The middens and under seats have been filled up to ground level with good hard rubbish and covered with concrete. In some cases doors and frames have been fixed in the outside walls for removal of pails, and in other cases wood fronts, made to open, have been fixed to closet seats. The roofs, walls, doors, floors, etc., have been repaired where necessary, and open middens have been filled up and ashbins provided.

Offensive midden-privies have been converted into Pail Closets at 1 to 15 Barony Buildings; 3 and 4 Cart Lake;

23 Beam Street; 39 to 57 Daisy Bank; 3, 5, 7, and 9 Marsh Lane; 87 to 97 Beam Street; 31, 33, and 35 Snow Hill; 9 Pall Mall; 36 to 42 Second Wood Street; 13 First Wood Street; and 1 to 11 Victoria Buildings.

The ashpit scavenging has been carried out satisfactorily during the year, and there has been no cause for complaint.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conveniences at the whole of the Schools in the District have been frequently inspected. On one occasion the W.C.'s at the Church of England Schools (Girls' Department) were found to be stopped and the cistern leaking very badly, causing the seats to be wet. The cistern was repaired, drain opened out, cleansed and made good, and the whole of the walls limewashed.

The rainwater drains were also stopped. These were opened out and found to be full of tree roots. The pipes were taken out, cleared, and re-laid with cement joints.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are four Registered Common Lodging-Houses in the District.

Two hundred and two visits have been paid to these premises, which are well conducted and kept in a clean state. As these premises are alleged to be centres of spreading infectious disease, they have been kept under strict observation.

All Lodging-houses were thoroughly limewashed during April and October in accordance with the Bye-laws.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 11 registered Dairy Farms and Cowsheds in the District; the milk from these Farms is disposed of locally. The Farms are frequently inspected.

There is also one Milk Shop & Dairy, the supplies for same being obtained from farmers in the Rural District.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been kept in a cleanly state and thoroughly limewashed twice during the year.

The importance of careful handling and storage of the milk and utensils was impressed upon all those engaged in the distribution of milk with a view to preventing any contamination.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 19 retail Bakehouses in the District, one of which is underground.

Owing to the heavy floods during February, the underground Bakehouse was flooded, the water from the River backing up the drains. When the flood had subsided, the Bakehouse was thoroughly cleansed and washed out with disinfectant.

Two Bakehouses have been opened during the year, and two have been closed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 6 registered and 3 licensed private Slaughter Houses in the District, which are frequently visited.

One informal notice was served to remove offal from the premises, and was complied with.

All Slaughter Houses have been thoroughly limewashed at least four times during the year in accordance with the Bye-laws.

FOOD SUPPLIES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The premises where food supplies are prepared and exposed for sale are regularly inspected, and no seizure of unsound food has been made during the year.

FRIED FISH SHOPS, COOKED MEAT SHOPS, ETC.

These premises are not regulated by Bye-laws, but are frequently inspected, and the businesses are carried out in

a satisfactory manner. Particular attention is paid, on inspection, to cleanliness and to the wholesome condition of the food supplies.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These premises are regularly inspected, are kept in a cleanly state, and no complaints as to nuisances arising therefrom have been received during the year.

The following is a list of the Offensive Trades established within the District, viz:—One large Tannery, a Fellmonger, and two Tripe Boilers.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION.

All cases of Infectious Disease notified had immediate attention; precaution papers containing instructions for preventing the spread of the disease were left, also liquid disinfectants for washing and cleansing purposes. After recovery or removal of the patients, the infected bedding and clothing was removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected by Steam. The infected rooms were afterwards sprayed with Formalin.

One hundred and four rooms were disinfected during the year.

Special attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the premises, and any defects found were immediately remedied.

Several rooms at the Workhouse and Miss Hare's Ladies' College were thoroughly disinfected after the removal of cases of Scarlet Fever.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

These Acts were administered by Officials appointed by the County Council, and during the year 18 samples have been taken from this District, and submitted to the Analyst:—Eggs, dried (1); Gentian Root (1); Ground Ginger (1); Gregory Powder (1); Jam (1); Milk (13). Four of the milks were certified as being below the standard of quality, two being deficient in fat to the extent of 19 and 30 per

cent. respectively, and the other two as adulterated with 2·1 and 7 per cent. of water respectively. In the first two cases the sellers were taken before the Justices but both cases were dismissed, and in view of this action cautions were administered to the sellers of the other two samples reported against.

HOUSING.

Fifty-six houses have been inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909. Eighteen of these houses have been repaired.

Numbers 22 to 44 First Wood Street:—These houses have been repaired and put in fairly good order. At Number 22 the floor over cellar was full of dry rot and very dangerous. This was taken up, cellar filled in, and tile floor laid on concrete.

Number 14 Swine Market.—The roof on these premises, which was thatched, was very defective. Part of thatch has been removed and the whole of the roof covered with corrugated iron.

Numbers 36 and 38 Marsh Lane:—The scullery roofs, which were in a defective and dangerous state, have been taken off and new roofs fixed.

During the heavy gales at the beginning of the year a considerable number of house roofs were damaged. These received immediate attention and were put in order.

A number of seriously defective houses have been inspected during the year, and notices have been served on the Owners to do the necessary repairs.

No representations have been made to the Local Authority.

No new houses have been built during the year.

One Army Hut has been converted into two Dwelling Houses.

There are no empty houses in the District.

Great difficulty is still experienced in getting work carried out, owing to the high cost of materials and labour.

Three hundred and four houses have been inspected (generally) and defects found dealt with under the Public Health Act.

Particular attention has been paid to the cleanliness of overcrowded houses.

The Housing Scheme has been deferred for three months in view of the probability of a fall in the cost of building materials, etc.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 40 Factories on the Register, to which 53 inspections have been made.

One verbal notice was given to clear choked W.C.'s.

The extensive alterations at two Clothing Factories are nearing completion.

Thirty-eight new W.C.'s have been erected at Messrs. Harding's Factory in place of Pail Closets.

One new Factory has been erected.

One large Shoe Factory was burnt down in July.

The Workshops, which number 41, are periodically inspected.

All Reports from the Factory Inspector received immediate attention.

OUTWORKERS.

There are 160 Outworkers on the Lists employed by 8 Firms and engaged in the making and finishing of wearing apparel.

Three hundred and forty-eight visits have been paid to these premises, and particular attention has been paid to the sanitary condition under which the outwork has been carried on, and a number of nuisances have been abated.

LICENCES.

During the year eight Licences for the sale and storage of Petroleum, two for the storage of Carbide of Calcium, one Game, one Pawnbroker's, and three Slaughter Houses have been renewed.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE AND LOCAL ACTS

IN FORCE IN

THE URBAN DISTRICT.

1.—Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846, 1878, 1882, and 1899.

2.—The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

3.—The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

4.—Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts 1, 3, and 4. Section 50.

5.—Public Libraries Acts, 1892, 1893, 1901, and Offences Act, 1898.

6.—Private Street Works Act, 1892.

7.—Notification of Births Act, 1907.

8.—Nantwich Urban District Council Act, 1903.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders:—

(Confirmation)	No. 7	Act,	1905.	Gas Supply only.
ditto	No. 4	,,	1907.	
ditto	No. 9	,,	1912.	

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANAL BOATS, 1920.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PEPPER STREET,

NANTWICH,

4th January, 1921.

Twenty-four boats were inspected during the year, and with one exception were found in a satisfactory condition.

Nature of infringement:—The boat "Sibyl" required the roof of cabin repairing and making watertight. The owner's attention was called to the defect and the same was rectified.

No boats have been registered during the year.

There have been no notifications of Infectious Disease.

The occupants of the boats were as follows:—

Men	40
Women	12
Children	11

A number of visits were paid to the Canal, but no boats were found plying at the time.

Several boats have been re-inspected.

(Signed)

P. BEBBINGTON,

Inspector.